

March 7, 2005

Information Letter 2005-01

Key Word(s): access planning; access corridors; shared access

CHUNGO CREEK INDUSTRIAL ACCESS MANAGEMENT AREA

PURPOSE

This Information Letter addresses new obligations and specific direction for industry that affects surface disposition applications for linear/access developments within the Chungo Creek area. In all cases, access planning and construction shall consider/incorporate the potential for shared use by other industrial stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

Owing to multiple users on the same land base, careful planning by industry is critical for roads, pipelines, transmission lines and other linear developments. (Note: While seismic is a linear disturbance, it is not considered a linear development.) Broad management direction for the Chungo Creek area is provided at the sub-regional level in the Nordegg Red Deer River Integrated Resource Plan.

Through an extensive integrated landscape management (ILM) initiative, the Alberta Chamber of Resources has developed the Chungo Creek Main Trunk Road Corridor Plan (the Plan). This work was carried out by representatives from the energy and forestry industries, in consultation with the Departments of Energy and Sustainable Resource Development (SRD).

Further information on ILM can be found on the Chamber's website at <http://www.acr-alberta.com/>.

PROCEDURE

- The impact of industrial access on other resource values and users shall be minimized through:
 - early consultation with other industry users and Clearwater Forest Area field staff;
 - integrated access planning between the forestry and energy sectors;
 - adherence to corridors that were agreed upon in the Plan;
 - appropriate and timely reclamation of access.
- The route shall be planned with consideration given to the Road Selection Criteria and Guidelines on the ACR website.
- Collaborative planning shall occur at the landscape level for main trunk roads and at the project-specific level for branch roads. All access planning must address the need to facilitate public access management.
- Before scouting or surveying potential routes, energy industry proponents shall contact the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) holder and other energy industry interests in the area to determine already projected and mutually beneficial routes.
- FMA holders will maintain current land use and resource management information to assist applicants.

SRD staff will review information provided by the applicant to assess the following:

- how well the proposed activity is aligned with the Plan;
- the level of effort to collaborate with other forestry/energy interests;

- how the proponent applied the Road Selection Criteria and Guidelines in relation to the proposed activity.

Before a linear development is approved, the applicant may be requested to present the advantages and disadvantages of any alternate proposals considered, the rationale for selecting a particular route, and the trade-offs made.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE GFR, EFR, AOA

The Chungo Supplemental must be attached to the SRD's Environmental Field Report when submitted. This supplemental is available on page 4 of the Annex to this Information Letter. Legal conditions within the supplemental, as well as through the Area Operating Agreement (AOA), require consultation with other users, the identification and use of common access and other linear developments, and timely reclamation.

For geophysical programs, identification and use of existing lines is required as part of the Geophysical Field Report (GFR). The GFR, as well as the AOA and EFR, can be downloaded from SRD's website at http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/land/fp_using.html.

CHUNGO CREEK MAIN TRUNK ROAD CORRIDOR PLAN

The following important reference information can be downloaded from http://www.acr-alberta.com/Projects/ILM_background.htm: Alberta Chamber of Resources Chungo Creek Industrial Access Group. Integrated Access Planning Project May 2002. Final Draft.

- Chungo Creek ILM–Main Trunk Road Corridors map.
- Proposed Integrated Landscape Management Protocol for Industrial Access Planning and Development in the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Alberta Chamber of Resources. May 2002.

SRD will monitor and update the Plan and integrate it with any new or modified Integrated Land Management (ILM) direction, as appropriate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Public Lands Operational Handbook

The Public Lands Operational Handbook was revised to update requirements for industry when planning and conducting operations on public land in Alberta. The Handbook can be downloaded from

http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/land/fp_managing.html.

CONTACTS

Departmental staff can be contacted at the number given below. To use the government's toll-free Rite Line, dial 310–000 and enter the phone number you are calling.

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